

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
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R 111911Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3718
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (LUNS, JOSEPH)
SUBJ: VISIT OF NATO SECGEN LUNS

REF: LISBON 8501 (DTG 041557Z NOV 77)(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NATO SECGEN LUNS'S NOV 8-11 VISIT WAS OVER-SHADOWED BY A POLITICAL CRISIS AND WAS A MODEST SUCCESS.
END SUMMARY.

1. COURTESY CALL: AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT EANES,
NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS VISITED LISBON
NOVEMBER 8-11 AND MET WITH PRESIDENT EANES, PRIME MINISTER
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SOARES, AND THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES.
DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, LUNS AND EANES
REVIEWED THE PROCESS OF MODERNIZING THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES,
AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION.

2. IN A TOAST DURING HIS DINNER FOR LUNS, PRIME MINISTER
SOARES:

-- REVIEWED THE ADVANTAGES OF COLLECTIVE DEFENSE;
-- SALUTED THE TRADITIONAL PORTUGUESE TIES TO EUROPE AND
THE IMPORTANCE TO ATLANTIC DEFENSE OF THE "STRATEGIC TRIANGLE"
OF PORTUGAL, THE AZORES, AND MADEIRA; AND
-- APPEALED FOR ALLIED AID TO MAKE POSSIBLE AN EFFECTIVE
PORTUGUESE CONTRIBUTION TO COMMON DEFENSE.
-- LAVISHED PRAISE ON SOARES.

3. IN RESPONSE, LUNS:

-- SAID ALL COUNTRIES SUPPORT PORTUGUESE EFFORTS TO FIND
THE RIGHT ROAD TO RESOLVE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL
PROBLEMS;
-- WISHED THE PORTUGUESE WELL IN NEGOTIATIONS TO ENTER THE
EEC; AND
-- AFFIRMED THAT ALL NATO MEMBERS WANT PORTUGAL TO ASSUME
RESPONSIBILITY IN DEFENSE OF THE ATLANTIC.

4. PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS: AT A PRESS CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 10 LUNS REITERATED HIS, AND THE ALLIANCE'S,
SYMPATHY FOR PORTUGAL. REGARDING THE PORTUGUESE FORCE
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, LUNS CITED THREE FACTORS AS
CAUSING SLOW DELIVERY DATES FOR NEW EQUIPMENT: STRIKES
IN THE U.S.; TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, SINCE THE PORTUGUESE
ARMED FORCES ARE NOT YET CAPABLE OF HANDLING CERTAIN
KINDS OF ADVANCED EQUIPMENT; E.G. ELECTRONIC GEAR;
AND GENERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING ALL MEMBERS OF
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THE ALLIANCE. RE SPECIFIC SERVICE PROBLEMS, LUNS NOTED
THAT CONVERSATIONS WERE CONTINUING ON A NEW FIGHTER
FOR PORTUGAL AND MEANS OF FINANCING ITS ACQUISITION. HE
ALSO STATED THAT TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS REGARDING THE
PORTUGUESE NAVY'S DESIRE TO ACQUIRE BRITISH FRIGATES.

5. COMMENT: THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S VISIT, UNFORTUNATELY,
WAS COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED BY PORTUGAL'S CURRENT
POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE ENGAGING THE ATTENTION OF
LISBON'S CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS. HIS BLUFF AND
GENIAL MANNER DID NOT COMPENSATE FOR THE FACT THAT HE DEALT
ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN GENERALITIES.
WHILE HIS VISIT HELPED TO STRENGTHEN NATO TIES AND
GIVE A BOOST TO THE SOCIALISTS AND MODERATES IN GENERAL, SOME
OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WILL COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS AND GIVE
RISE TO HEIGHTENED EXPECTATIONS.
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